



2005 CATHEDRAL GORGE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All programs are free to those camping in the park, or those with the State Parks Annual or Senior Pass (daily park entrance fees apply to hikes). All programs start at or from the campground amphitheater, unless otherwise noted. Hikes vary in length, though all are easy for beginners; be sure to wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring a canteen of water. Join us for some adventure!

For information about any of these program, call the Regional Visitor Center at Cathedral Gorge State Park, (775) 728-4460 between 9:00-4:30 daily.

Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m.: Come discover the secrets of spring on an adventure hike on the 4-mile loop trail, and learn more about the plants & animals that inhabit this high desert terrain. Bring a canteen and a snack, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Subject to cancellation in case of rain; call the park office at 775-728-4460 for up-to-date weather information.

Saturday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.: After-dinner geology walk -- discover how the formations of Cathedral Gorge State Park were formed. Bring along a flashlight in case we get back after dark, and wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots. Subject to cancellation in case of rain; call the park office at 775-728-4460 by 4:30 that afternoon for up-to-date weather information.

Saturday night, April 16, 7:30 p.m.: What is a Penstemon? Can you paint with an Indian Paintbrush? Learn the names of our local wildflowers in an interesting slide program. Bring a jacket in case it is chilly. If it rains, it will be moved to the Regional Visitor Center auditorium. Call the park office, 775-728-4460 by 4:30 Saturday afternoon for more information.

Saturday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.: Join the ranger for the first Moonlight Walk of the season. This easy walk will cover less than a mile, among the canyons and “caves” of the Gorge. Bring a flashlight and a jacket; subject to cancellation in case of rain – call the park office at 775-728-4460 by 4:30 Saturday afternoon to check on weather conditions.

Saturday, April 30, 5:30 p.m.: GPS or compass? Whether you use one or the other, people across the country are participating in new activities that combine the challenge of direction-finding with a treasure hunt, called “geo-caching.” Bring your GPS or compass if you have one, and plan on a short hike to locate a geo-cache; meet at the campground amphitheater.

Saturday, May 7, 8:00 p.m.: Who is more brainy: a Raven or a Wren? None of them are Einsteins, but you may discover some amazing secrets about the intelligence of birds in this interesting program.

Saturday, May 14, 8:00 p.m.: Nevada celebrates Historic Preservation and Archaeological Awareness Week, and as part of that celebration, the featured program be “A Grave Matter.” Literally. This program will reveal some interesting facts about old cemeteries and their inhabitants.

Saturday night, May 21, 8:00 p.m.: Join the ranger for another springtime Moonlight Hike, and we'll explore another area of the Gorge. Bring a flashlight, and a jacket in case it is still chilly.

Memorial Day Weekend: Two special programs are featured at Cathedral Gorge State Park this weekend: on **Saturday night, May 28**, learn some tips & techniques to improve your photography skills during the program "Picture Perfect." We will also reveal details of a photo contest that will start this weekend and conclude Labor Day weekend. The program will start at 8:00 p.m. in the campground amphitheater.

On **Sunday morning, May 29**, join the Ranger on a morning walk to practice some of the techniques discussed in Saturday night's program. This easy walk will start at 8:30 a.m. from the campground amphitheater, and will cover less than a mile. Bring your camera and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Saturday, June 4, 8:30 p.m.: Lizards and bugs and snakes: oh my! The Saturday night program will highlight some of the "Creepy, Crawly Critters" found in this high desert region. Rest assured, we don't anticipate any live specimens!

Saturday, June 11, 8:00 p.m., at the group area: Can you find the Milky Way, Leo, Virgo, or the Summer Triangle? Learn some facts and legends about the stars, planets, and constellations, and we'll have a telescope to see some of the objects up close. Bring a blanket to lay on the ground, or a chaise lounge to be comfortable for this session.

Saturday, June 18, 8:30 p.m.: Do you have “bats in your belfry”? Come learn some facts and myths about these amazing flying mammals who rule the summer night sky.

Saturday, June 25, 5:30 p.m. at the group area: Arrowheads! Come see how they are made, during this special demonstration program. A local flint-knapper will demonstrate how he makes stone arrowheads and knives, as you watch.

Independence Day Weekend: As summer time rolls around, you may wonder how people survived in the desert before the days of air conditioning. For thousands of years, native Americans made a good living in this area; the

Saturday night program July 2 will discuss the different tribes who lived here. The program will start **at 8:30 p.m.** at the campground amphitheater. ***Please remember on this holiday weekend: fireworks are not allowed in any of the State Parks.***

On **Sunday morning, July 3**, join the Ranger for an early-birds nature walk in the Gorge. We will depart from the **campground at 7:30 a.m.**, and return before the heat sets in; wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring a water bottle.

Saturday, July 9, 8:30 p.m.: Why don't saguaro cactus grow in Nevada? Which is the driest desert area in North America? The answers to these and other questions will be answered at the Saturday night program, “Just Deserts.”

Saturday night, July 16, 6:00 p.m.: “Dueling Dutch Ovens” will be featured at tonight's special demonstration program. If you've never tried using a Dutch oven, this program will inspire you to get you started; we have invited local Scout troops

and Dutch oven chefs to come share their best recipes with us! The program will be **at the group use area**, and participants will choose a winning recipe after sampling the offerings from each cook-team. Prizes will be awarded for the best recipe, the best team effort, and several other categories.

Saturday, July 23, 8:30 p.m.: It has been claimed that Cottonwood trees saved the Lewis & Clark expedition from certain failure. What were the trees that were equally important to the early settlers in Nevada? “Pioneer Trees” will be the featured program on this, the “Pioneer Day” weekend celebrated in Utah and eastern Nevada.

Saturday, Aug. 20, 8:00 p.m.: The perfect time for a walk in the good ol’ summertime is in the evening; join the Ranger for a moonlight hike This easy walk cover no more than a mile as we wander through the spires and “caves”. Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes and bring a flashlight.

Saturday, Aug. 27, 8:30 p.m.: What is that green stuff growing in the fields, and how does it become “hay”? The slide program “Makin’ Hay,” will explain the historic and present-day methods of turning members of the Pea family and grasses into a cash crop.

Labor Day Weekend: 100 years ago, Pioche started celebrating Labor Day! Its own history had started forty years previously, and the town had already been through several booms & “busts.” The Saturday night program at Cathedral Gorge State Park on **Sept. 3** will feature the Mining History of Eastern Nevada, starting at **7:30 p.m.** in the campground amphitheater.

Join the Ranger on **Sunday morning, Sept. 4**, for a walk to discover how the unique formations of Cathedral Gorge were formed. Meet at the campground amphitheater **at 8:30 a.m.**; bring along a canteen of water and wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots.

That afternoon, we will display all the contest entries from our summer Photo Contest, and your vote will decide the winner(s)! Join us at the Regional Visitor Center auditorium, **at 2:00 p.m.**

Saturday, Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m.: Messages in a bottle aren't always found in the ocean! If you know when certain types of bottles & jars were made, you can decipher messages from the past. The program, "Time in a Bottle," will help you learn more about the fragments of bottles you may find lying around.

Saturday night, Sept. 17, 7:00 p.m.: The Harvest Moon will shine on the last Moonlight Hike of the season. Bring a flashlight and a jacket, just in case it turns chilly along the way; subject to cancellation in case of rain.

Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.: Are you "nuts about pines"? Some people cannot wait for this time of year to roll around, when they can go out and gather pine-nuts! Learn more about the pine trees that make these delicious nuts at the Saturday night program in the campground amphitheater (or the Visitor Center auditorium in case of rain).

Saturday, October 1: The astronomers are coming! Members of the Las Vegas Astronomical Society will be at Cathedral Gorge for their 19th annual “star party.” They will have their high-powered telescopes and enthusiastic members available to show you the sights beyond our view, starting at **7:00 p.m. in the campground** amphitheater. That morning, an easy nature walk will be led by the Ranger, starting at **10:00 a.m.** from the campground amphitheater.

Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:00 p.m.: Buffalo in Nevada? Yes, several centuries ago herds of bison roamed through eastern Nevada. Learn the story of the discoveries that have been made at Cathedral Gorge State Park during the past decade. You may wish to bring a jacket for the chilly evening temperature. (Program will be held at the Regional Visitor Center auditorium in case of rain or extreme cold)

Saturday, Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m.: In 1849, at just about this time of year, a group of California-bound travelers left their wagon train on the Old Spanish Trail and struggled across the uncharted deserts of southern Nevada. Bennett Pass (west of Panaca) was named for one of the leaders in that hapless band of travelers; come learn the story of their struggles. This program will start at 7:00 p.m. in the campground amphitheater (or Regional Visitor Center auditorium in case of rain or cold).

Saturday, October 22, 6:30 p.m.: Buck fever started earlier this month, with the start of the general Deer hunt; but what do we actually know about these large mammals, beyond “Bambi”? The program, “Deer Me,” will give

you an interesting look at the secret life of deer, elk and antelope. The program will start at the campground amphitheater (or Regional Visitor Center auditorium in case of rain or cold).

Saturday, October 29, 6:30 p.m.: For many an early Pioche lad or lassie, tipping over the outhouse was a common Halloween prank; those days, and the outhouses, are gone now. A slide program, “Goin’ In Style,” will pay tribute to the various styles and functions of early outhouses. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the campground amphitheater (or Regional Visitor Center in case of rain or cold weather).